

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/638,263	STIFELMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael N. Opsasnick	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 5/30/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 38-43 and 61-65.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 38-43 and 61-65 are allowed over the prior art of record.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per the independent claims 38 and 61, the combination of features pertaining to determining the default location based on a characteristic of a caller, rendering a first message to said caller that information will be provided based on the caller characteristic, giving an opportunity for the caller to change the characteristic, pausing so that the user can say a new location, reverting back to the first category if a new location is not indicated, and providing information of the first category to the new location if the user provides a new location, is not explicitly taught by the prior art of record. Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of interactive dialog systems to modify the teachings of the prior art of record to obtain the recited limitations of the independent claims as noted above.

With respect to the prior art of record, information providing systems to callers are old and well known in the art. As an example, financial/banking telephonic information services allows users to automatically enter an account number (via either keypad input or voice input), and after the verification process, guide the user to submenus relating to the account (balances, transactions, etc.). An example of this is shown in Mazor et al ("1995, Speech Communications, pp313-320). Another example of Mazor et al in the dialog management art shows an example

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of call flow when a user's response is not understood (either mis-recognized, or a timeout condition); wherein the system waits and asks the user to repeat the query (Mazor et al, ICSLP 1994, pp 679-682). Lau et al ("WebGALAXY: beyond point and click...browser", Computer Networks and ISDN systems, 1997, pp 1385-1393) teaches interpretation of the input speech by the user, and formulating a reply sentence mimicking the subject area (category) of the user's initial query (Fig. 1, pp 1388). The concept of storing previous used link/categories to input speech is shown in Hemphill ("Surfing the Web by Voice, ACM 1995, pp 215-222), in particular, creating a speakable hotlist that uses a user-defined grammar to a category (pp 217-218). Gould et al (5960394) teaches an audio user interface (Fig. 32) waiting for a spoken command from a user, then performing the command if nothing is recognized (col. 26 lines 50-65; and in Fig. 28, the global "TIMEOUT 40"; the routine is interrupted because a response was not heard within a timeframe). Wolf (6014428) teaches an interactive voice response system in voice mail choosing different categories based on users speech (Fig. 1b). However, the prior art of record fails to teach the combination of claim elements as claimed in the independent claims as noted above.

Claims 39-42 and 62-65 are indicated as allowable over the prior art of record because these claims depend from claims (38 and 61) that have been indicated as allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Opsasnick, telephone number (571)272-7623, who is available Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Richemond Dorvil, can be reached at (571)272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mno
7/22/06


Michael N. Opsasnick
Examiner
Art Unit 2626